



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Great Lakes & Ohio River Division

Contaminated Sediments

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has a number of authorities for assisting States, local governments, and Native American Indian tribes in the management of contaminated bottom sediments. These programs provide cost-shared support, not grants. This fact sheet will discuss authorities which may be applicable to contaminated sediment sites within the Great Lakes region. These programs were authorized under the various Water Resources Development Acts (WRDA).

Environmental Dredging

Authorization: Section 312 of WRDA 1990, as amended.

Program Goals: To provide for the removal of contaminated sediments outside the boundaries of Federal navigation channels. Project benefits may be for ecological restoration or future cost savings to navigation maintenance. All actions are to be taken in consultation with the USEPA.

Cost Sharing: Dredging and disposal are cost shared at 65% Federal, 35% Non-Federal.

Budgetary: Annual funding not to exceed \$20,000,000, Corps-wide. The FY 2000 appropriation includes \$600,000 for engineering and design of the environmental dredging project at Ashtabula River, Ohio.

Great Lakes Remedial Action Plans

Authorization: Section 401 of WRDA 1990, as amended.

Program Goals: To provide technical, planning and engineering assistance to States and local governments in the development and implementation of remedial action plans (RAPs) for Great Lakes areas of concern.

Application: Contaminated sediments have been identified as a significant problem at all 31 Great Lakes areas of concern within the U.S. Corps districts are developing plans for remediation of contaminated sediments in support to the Ashtabula

River (Ohio), Grand Calumet River (Indiana), Waukegan Harbor (Illinois), Detroit River (Michigan) and Muskegon Lake (Michigan) RAPs.

Cost Sharing: 50% Federal, 50% Non-Federal; Non-Federal share may include services in-kind.

Budgetary: Annual funding not to exceed \$3,000,000. The FY 2000 appropriation for this program is \$500,000.

Beneficial Use of Dredged Material

Authorization: Section 204 of WRDA 1992.

Program Goals: Protect, restore and create aquatic habitat, including wetlands, in connection with dredging at authorized Federal navigation projects.

Application: Sediments dredged from navigation channels have been used for the construction of islands in coastal and backwater areas in order to restore nesting habitat for migratory waterfowl. A dredged material disposal facility on the Rouge River was configured to restore and protect a coastal wetland. Habitat restoration projects are being studied in Duluth Harbor and Green Bay.

Cost Sharing: 75% Federal, 25% Non-Federal; operation and maintenance costs are Non-Federal.

Budgetary: Annual funding not to exceed \$15,000,000 Corps-wide. The FY 2000 appropriation for this program is \$1,000,000.

Expedited Reconnaissance Study

Authorization: Section 905(b) of WRDA 1986.

Program Goals: To conduct a Reconnaissance Study of a wide range of potential water resources projects at an accelerated schedule. Potential projects may include navigation, flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, shoreline or streambank protection, and water quality enhancement.

Application: Reconnaissance studies are being initiated for environmental dredging at Muskegon Lake, White Lake, Fox River, Detroit River and Indiana Harbor

Cost Sharing: Expedited Reconnaissance Studies are conducted at full-Federal cost, not to exceed \$100,000.

Budgetary: The FY 2000 appropriations includes funding for five reconnaissance studies of environmental dredging in the Great Lakes region, all as Congressional Adds.

Dredged Material Disposal Facility Partnerships

Authorization: Section 217 of WRDA 1996.

Program Goals: The Corps can partner with Non-Federal interests in the development and use of disposal facilities for dredged material.

Application: Partnerships between Corps districts and non-Federal interests are ongoing at Indiana Harbor and Ashtabula Harbor, where plans are being developed for a confined disposal facility (CDF) for contaminated sediments to achieve both navigation and environmental objectives.

Cost Sharing: The portion of the disposal facility serving navigation needs is cost shared according to Section 201 of WRDA 1996. Portion(s) of the facility serving other needs are a Non-Federal responsibility.

Budgetary: No specific appropriation is needed for this authority.

Reimbursable Support

Aside from the cost-shared authorities described above, the Corps can provide technical support to State, municipal and tribal agencies on a reimbursable basis. The Corps is providing reimbursable support to the Fish & Wildlife Service and State of Michigan for the sediment cleanup in the Saginaw River.

Monitoring Partnerships

The Corps routinely performs sediment quality monitoring at Federal navigation channels in relation to maintenance dredging. State and local agencies that have data needs in Great Lakes tributaries with are encouraged to consider partnering with the Corps' to make best use of limited monitoring resources.

For More Information

In order to obtain more information about the application of any of these programs, check out the Corps Great Lakes Region web site:

<http://www.lrd.usace.army.mil/gl/gl.htm>

or contact the following Corps District offices for sites in:

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